

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of communicating information over a network, comprising:  
connecting a participant web browser to a server to obtain the location of  
5 configuration information and a unique session identifier for the information;  
loading a participant software plugin and retrieving a compound document from  
the location specified in the configuration information; and  
connecting to a portal for gathering the information, wherein  
the portal directs the participant software plugin to an appropriate server for presentation  
10 of the information and the participant participates in the presentation or plays back a  
recorded presentation.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the information is a presentation for a course or  
meeting.

3. A system for communication information over a network, comprising:  
a web browser connecting to a server to obtain the location of configuration  
information and a unique session identifier for the information, the web browser loading  
a participant software plugin and retrieving a compound document from the location  
20 specified in the configuration information; and  
system software connecting to a portal for gathering the information, wherein  
the portal directs the participant software plugin to an appropriate server for presentation  
of the information and the participant participates in the presentation or plays back a  
recorded presentation.